

Gov. Andrew Cuomo resigns over sexual harassment allegations

By MARINA VILLENEUVE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced his resignation Tuesday over a barrage of sexual harassment allegations in a fall from grace a year after he was widely hailed nationally for his detailed daily briefings and leadership during some of the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By turns defiant and chastened, the 63-year-old Democrat emphatically denied intentionally mistreating women and called the pressure for his ouster politically motivated. But he said that fighting back in this "too hot" political climate would subject the state to months of turmoil. "The best way I can help now is if I step aside and let government get back to governing," Cuomo said in a televised address.



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo prepares to board a helicopter after announcing his resignation, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, in New York.

Continued on next page

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Continued from Front

The third-term governor's resignation, which will take effect in two weeks, was announced as momentum built in the Legislature to remove him by impeachment and after nearly the entire Democratic establishment had turned against him, with President Joe Biden joining those calling on him to resign. The decision came a week after New York's attorney general released the results of an investigation that found Cuomo sexually harassed at least 11 women. Investigators said he subjected women to unwanted kisses; groped their breasts or buttocks or otherwise touched them inappropriately; made insinuating remarks about their looks and their sex lives; and created a work environment "rife with fear and



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and others walk towards a helicopter at a Manhattan heliport in New York on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

intimidation."

At the same time, Cuomo was under fire over the discovery that his administration had concealed thousands of COVID-19 deaths among nursing home patients.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, a 62-year-old Democrat and former member of Con-

gress from the Buffalo area, will become the state's 57th governor and the first woman to hold the post. She said Cuomo's resignation was "the right thing to do and in the best interest of New Yorkers."

The #MeToo-era scandal cut short not just a career but a dynasty: Cuomo's

father, Mario Cuomo, was governor in the 1980s and '90s, and the younger Cuomo was often mentioned as a potential presidential candidate. Even as the scandal mushroomed, he was planning to run for reelection in 2022.

Republicans exulted in Cuomo's departure but still urged impeachment, which could prevent him from running for office again. "This resignation is simply an attempt to avoid real accountability," state GOP chair Nick Langworthy said.

At the White House, Biden said: "I respect the governor's decision." At the same time, he said Cuomo had "done a helluva job" on infrastructure and voting rights, and "that's why it's so sad."

"From the beginning, I simply asked that the governor stop his abusive behavior," Lindsey Boylan, the first woman to accuse Cuomo publicly of harassment, tweeted Tuesday. "It became abundantly clear he was unable to do that, instead attacking and blaming victims until the end."

Cuomo still faces the possibility of criminal charges, with a number of prosecutors around the state continuing to investigate him. At least one of his accusers has filed a criminal complaint.

The governor prefaced his resignation with a 45-minute defense from his lawyer and his own insistence that his behavior — while sometimes insensitive, off-putting or "too familiar" — had been used against him as a weapon in a political environment where "rashness has replaced reasonableness."

"I am a fighter, and my instinct is to fight through this controversy because I truly believe it is politically motivated. I believe it is unfair and it is untruthful," he said,

but added that he didn't want "distractions" to consume the state government as it grapples with the pandemic and other problems. The string of accusations began in news reports last December and went on for months. Cuomo called some of the allegations fabricated and denied he touched anyone inappropriately. But he acknowledged making some aides uncomfortable with comments he said he intended as playful, and he apologized for some of his behavior.

He portrayed some encounters as misunderstandings attributable to "generational or cultural" differences, invoking his upbringing in an affectionate Italian American family.

The attorney general's investigation backed up the women's accounts and added lurid new ones, turning up the pressure on Cuomo. Investigators also said that the governor's staff retaliated against Boylan by leaking confidential personnel files about her.

As governor, Cuomo proclaimed himself a "progressive Democrat" who gets things done: Since taking office in 2011, he helped push through legislation that legalized gay marriage, began lifting the minimum wage to \$15 and expanded paid family leave benefits. He also backed big infrastructure projects, including a new Hudson River bridge that he named after his father.

At the same time he was engaging in the behavior that got him into trouble, he was publicly championing the #MeToo movement and surrounding himself with women's rights activists. He signed into law sweeping new protections against sexual harassment and lengthened the statute of limitations in rape cases. □

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Big win for \$1T infrastructure bill: Dems, GOP come together

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a robust vote after weeks of fits and starts, the Senate approved a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan for states coast to coast on Tuesday, as a rare coalition of Democrats and Republicans joined together to overcome skeptics and deliver a cornerstone of President Joe Biden's agenda.

"Today, we proved that democracy can still work," Biden declared at the White House, noting that the 69-30 vote included even Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell.

"We can still come together to do big things, important things, for the American people," Biden said.

The overwhelming tally provided fresh momentum for the first phase of Biden's "Build Back Better" priorities, now heading to the House. A sizable number of lawmakers showed they were willing to set aside partisan pressures, at least for a moment, eager to send billions to their states for rebuilding roads, broadband internet, water pipes and the public works systems that underpin much of American life. The vote also set the stage for a much more contentious fight over Biden's bigger \$3.5 trillion package that is next up in the Senate — a more liberal undertaking of child care, elder care and other programs that is much more partisan and expected to draw only Democratic support. That debate is expected to extend into the fall.

With the Republicans lockstep against the next big package, many of them reached for the current compromise with the White House because they, too, wanted show they could deliver and the government could function.

"Today's kind of a good news, bad news day," said Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, one of the negotiators. "The good news is that today we really did something historic in the United States Senate; we moved out an infrastruc-

ture package, something that we have talked about doing for years." The bad news, she said, is what's coming next.

Infrastructure was once a mainstay of lawmaking, but the weeks-long slog to strike a compromise showed how hard it has become for Congress to tackle routine legislating, even on shared priorities.

Tuesday's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act started with a group of 10 senators who seized on Biden's campaign promise to draft a scaled-down version of his initial \$2.3 trillion proposal, one that could more broadly appeal to both parties in the narrowly divided Congress, especially the 50-50 Senate.

It swelled to a 2,700-page bill backed by the president and also business, labor and farm interests. Over time, it drew an expansive alliance of senators and a bipartisan group in the House.

In all, 19 Republicans joined all Democrats in voting for Senate passage. Vice President Kamala Harris, as presiding officer, announced the final tally.

While liberal lawmakers said the package doesn't go far enough as a downpayment on Biden's priorities and conservatives said it is too costly and should be more fully paid for, the coalition of centrist senators was able to hold. Even broadsides from former President Donald Trump could not bring the bill down.

The measure proposes nearly \$550 billion in new spending over five years in addition to current federal authorizations for public works that will reach virtually every corner of the country — a potentially historic expenditure Biden has put on par with the building of the transcontinental railroad and Interstate highway system.

There's money to rebuild roads and bridges, and also to shore up coastlines against climate change, protect public utility systems from cyberattacks and modernize the elec-



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y. walks off the Senate floor and pumps his fists as the Senate approves a \$1 trillion bipartisan cornerstone of the Biden agenda to the House, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

tric grid. Public transit gets a boost, as do airports and freight rail. Most lead drinking water pipes in America could be replaced.

Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio,

the lead Republican negotiator, said the work "demonstrates to the American people that we can get our act together on a bipartisan basis to get some-

thing done."

The top Democratic negotiator, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, said rarely will a piece of legislation affect so many Americans. She gave a nod to the late fellow Arizona Sen. John McCain and said she was trying to follow his example to "reach bipartisan agreements that try to bring the country together."

Drafted during the COVID-19 crisis, the bill would provide \$65 billion for broadband, a provision Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, negotiated because she said the coronavirus pandemic showed that such service "is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity." States will receive money to expand broadband and make it more affordable. □

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Nearly 900 buildings destroyed by massive California fire

GREENVILLE, Calif. (AP) — California's largest single wildfire in recorded history kept pushing through for-estlands on Tuesday as fire crews tried to protect rural communities from flames that have destroyed hundreds of homes.

Clear skies over parts of the month-old Dixie Fire have allowed aircraft to rejoin nearly 6,000 firefighters in the attack this week.

"Whether or not we can fly depends very much on where the smoke is. There's still some areas where it's just too smoky," fire spokesman Edwin Zuniga said.

Burning through bone-dry trees, brush and grass, the fire by Tuesday had destroyed nearly 900 homes and other buildings. Much of the small community of Greenville was incinerated during an explosive run of flames last week.

But the reports are "definitely subject to change" because assessment teams still can't get into many areas to count what burned, Zuniga said.

The Dixie Fire, named for the road where it started, also threatened 14,000 buildings in more than a dozen small mountain and rural communities in the northern Sierra Nevada.



This Aug. 7, 2021 photo shows a classic Chevrolet El Camino that was lost along with the home of "Pete" Reyna Wednesday evening in Chicago Park.

Associated Press

Crews have cut thousands of acres of new fire lines aimed at preventing the fire from spreading. Officials believe the fire lines created on the blaze's southern side will hold the fire at bay there, but the fire's future is unknown, authorities said.

"We don't know where this fire is going to end and where it's going to land. It continues to challenge us," said Chris Carlton, supervi-

sor for Plumas National Forest.

Temperatures are expected to rise and the humidity is expected to fall over the next few days, with triple-digit high temperatures possible later in the week along with a return of strong afternoon winds, fire meteorologist Rich Thompson warned Monday evening.

The fire that broke out July

14 had grown to an area of 762 square miles (1,973 square kilometers) and was just 25% contained, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The Dixie Fire is about half the size of the August Complex, a series of lightning-caused 2020 fires across seven counties that were fought together and that state officials consider Cali-

fornia's largest wildfire overall.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday declared a state of emergency for northern Shasta, Trinity and Tehama counties. The declaration frees up state resources to help fight fires in those counties and give assistance to residents affected by the blazes.

California's raging wildfires are among some 100 large blazes burning across 15 states, mostly in the West, where historic drought conditions have left lands parched and ripe for ignition.

The Dixie Fire is the largest single fire in California history and the largest currently burning in the U.S. Nearly a quarter of all firefighters assigned to Western fires are fighting California blazes, said Rocky Oplinger, an incident commander.

Heat waves and historic drought tied to climate change have made wildfires harder to fight in the American West. Scientists have said climate change has made the region much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make the weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive. □

Missouri judge says Medicaid expansion must be allowed



In this April 27, 2021, file photo, Maxine Horgan, left, and Barbara Nyden attend a Medicaid expansion rally at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City, Mo..

Associated Press

By SUMMER BALLENTINE
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri judge on Tuesday ruled that Republican Gov.

Mike Parson no longer can deny Medicaid health care to thousands more newly eligible adults.

Cole County Judge Jon Beetem in his order said Parson's administration must give Medicaid coverage to newly eligible adults, despite the governor's resistance to doing so. Beetem also ordered that newly eligible adults won't face any additional restrictions to get health care coverage through the program.

The ruling represents a major victory for supporters of expanding Medicaid under the terms of the 2010 federal health care law signed by President Barack Obama. Missouri voters last year approved a state constitutional amendment expanding access to the government health care program to an estimated 275,000 more low-income adults, but Parson had re-

fused to implement it because the GOP-led Legislature didn't set aside money for it.

"With today's court order, Medicaid eligibility is finally expanded in Missouri, as its voters mandated and its people deserve," Democratic House Minority Leader Crystal Quade said in a statement. "There can be no more excuses and no more delays in implementation."

Parson's spokeswoman Kelli Jones in an email said the administration will "follow the law and will continue to look at how to operationalize the court's order."

Three women who were newly eligible for Medicaid sued to force Parson's administration to give them health care access. They

were vindicated last month when the Missouri Supreme Court found the voter-approved Medicaid expansion program constitutional and told the lower court to rule in their favor.

It remains unclear how the state will pay for health care for the newly eligible recipients. The Legislature may have to hold a special session to set aside more money for Medicaid. Otherwise, the state risks running out of funding for the program.

"We will continue to work with the Department of Social Services and the General Assembly to chart a path forward to enroll the expanded population and keep the MO HealthNet program solvent," Jones said. □

Poles protest bill that would silence U.S.-owned TV network

By VANESSA GERA

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poles demonstrated nationwide Tuesday against a bill widely viewed as an effort by the country's nationalist ruling party to silence an independent, U.S.-owned television broadcaster that is critical of the government.

Technically, the bill would prevent non-European owners from having controlling stakes in Polish media companies. In practice, it would push American company Discovery Inc. to sell its controlling stake in TVN, a network with many channels that operates the all-news station TVN24 and has a flagship evening news program watched daily by millions.

At stake in the bill's passage is Poland's reputation for media freedom and as a place for foreign companies to do business. The proposal is already straining relations with the United States, a key ally.

Poland's ruling party, Law and Justice, has long sought to nationalize the media, claiming it is for national security reasons. It says the law would bring Poland into line with other European countries, including France and Germany,



Protesters display posters in support of the independent broadcaster TVN during a demonstration in Warsaw, Poland, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

which limit foreign ownership in the media. It cites the risk of media being controlled by hostile powers like Russia and China.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Tuesday the law isn't directed against anyone but seeks to protect Polish society, alleging that foreign entities are trying to influence Poland's debate on COVID-19 vaccinations.

"It is through the media that

other countries influence our social life," he said at a news conference.

Large crowds chanted "Free media!" in dozens of cities and towns in support of TVN. In front of parliament in the capital of Warsaw, Donald Tusk, a former top European Union official who is now the leader of the opposition party Civic Platform, described free media as a pillar of democracy worth fighting for and

accused the government of trying to "return to communist patterns."

On Wednesday parliament is set to debate and vote on the bill.

The bill was introduced last month and appears to have a high chance of passing. Jaroslaw Gowin, who heads a small party in Poland's right-wing coalition government, opposed the bill and was dismissed from the government just

as the protests started Tuesday.

Reporters Without Borders urged Polish lawmakers to reject the legislation, accusing the ruling party of targeting the independent broadcaster "to enable government allies to acquire TVN."

Poland fell this year to 64th of 180 countries in the group's World Press Freedom Index, its lowest-ever ranking. It was in 18th place in 2015, the year Law and Justice took power.

TVN24 is the leading source of independent broadcast news for many Poles. Discovery had already felt endangered as the National Broadcasting Council, a Polish state body, has so far failed to renew the broadcast license for TVN24, which expires in September.

The bill's fate is being watched as a key test of media freedom and democracy.

Critics fear it would be a large step bringing Poland closer to the situation in Hungary, where authoritarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has gained near-total control over the media as private outlets have either folded or come under the control of his allies. □

Six EU nations want migrants forced back to Afghanistan

By LORNE COOK

BRUSSELS (AP) —

Six European Union member countries insist that the forced deportation of migrants back to Afghanistan, where Taliban insurgents have made sweeping gains in recent weeks, must continue despite the government in Kabul suspending such "non-voluntary returns" for three months.

In a letter dated Aug. 5, the interior ministers of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands urged the EU's executive branch to "intensify talks" with the Afghan government to ensure that the deportations of refugees would continue.

"We would like to highlight the urgent need to perform returns, both voluntary and

non-voluntary, to Afghanistan," the ministers wrote to the European Commission. "Stopping returns sends the wrong signal and is likely to motivate even more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU."

The commission confirmed Tuesday that it had received the letter and would reply when ready. Asked whether Afghanistan is a safe place to forcibly send people, spokesman Adalbert Jahnz said: "It is up to each (EU) member state to make an individual assessment of whether a return is possible."

Emboldened by the Biden administration's decision to pull American troops out of Afghanistan and end NATO's troop training mission in Afghanistan, Taliban

insurgents have captured five out of the country's 34 provincial capitals in less than a week.

Afghan security forces, which have been backed, trained and financed with billions of dollars in a 20-year-long Western military effort that included many EU countries, appear unable to cope with the offensive.

But despite the success of the insurgent blitz and few signs that the long-stalled peace talks between the Taliban and the Kabul government will resume soon, Europe is not facing any imminent threat of a major influx of Afghan migrants, a senior EU official said.

"We're nowhere near a migratory crisis," the official said, under customary con-



Internally displaced Afghan women from northern provinces, who fled their home due to fighting between the Taliban and Afghan security personnel, receive medical care in a public park in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

dition of anonymity. But he acknowledged "a humanitarian drama" was unfolding as the fighting forces

people from their homes and that up to half a million Afghan people could flee to neighboring countries. □

Israel investigating May barrage that killed 6 in Gaza

By **ILAN BEN ZION and RASHED RASHID**

JERUSALEM (AP) — After initially finding no grounds for disciplinary action, the Israeli military later opened an investigation into an artillery bombardment that killed six Palestinian civilians, including an infant, in the Gaza Strip in May.

To date, no soldiers or senior officers have been punished for the errant fire, which witnesses say came without warning. Human rights groups have long accused the Israeli military of having a poor record of investigating the conduct of its troops, and the Haaretz daily last week accused the army of covering up the incident.

The shelling during the latest war between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza took place in the night of May 13. It came ahead of an Israeli bombardment targeting Hamas's underground tunnel network. Ahead of the tunnel strikes, Israeli artillery bombarded the northern Gaza Strip and struck near a cluster of dilapidated homes belonging to a Bedouin community outside the town of Beit Lahia.

Nasser Abu Fares, 50, a local resident, said relatives were visiting to mark the Eid al-Fitr holiday, and he was



Nasser Abu Fares, who lost three daughters and a grandson when an Israeli artillery bombardment hit his family house during the 11-day war between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers in May, shows the shoes of one of his daughters amid the rubble of his house, at the Bedouin village of Umm Al-Nasr, outside the town of Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021.

Associated Press

standing in the street near his home when the shelling began.

"The first shell fell on my house in this area, and the dust rose, and we ran until we were 100 meters away," he said.

While the Israeli military often issues warnings or evacuation orders to residents ahead of large-scale operations, Abu Fares said: "No one warned us."

The barrage killed six people, including three of his daughters and his 9-month-old grandson.

In a statement, the army

said an "operational inquiry" was immediately conducted. It declined to provide details, but acknowledged the probe found no signs of criminal negligence.

However, it said "relevant takeaways from the review were used to inform several changes" and that the matter was now in the hands of a high-level investigative body known as the "General Staff Fact-Finding Assessment Mechanism."

"When an initial allegation or suspicion of misconduct does not by itself reach the

level of criminal suspicion, the Military Advocate General's Corps (MAG) requires additional factual information in order to make a decision whether to open a criminal investigation," it said.

Comprised of senior military officials and legal experts and headed by a major general, the fact-finding mechanism was formed during Israel's 2014 war against Hamas militants.

It holds broad investigative powers and is meant to assist the military advocate general when deciding

whether to open criminal investigations. It also issues recommendations "that will help mitigate the risk of irregular incidents occurring in the future," the army said.

The army has said the establishment of this mechanism reflects its serious commitment to respecting international legal norms. But critics say the army has a poor record of investigating itself.

"We give little faith to the investigations that the army is conducting and I don't think it will be different this time," said Yael Stein, chief researcher of the Israeli rights group B'Tselem.

Her group stopped a long-standing practice of assisting military investigations in 2016 after concluding the probes were not serious and amounted to cover-ups.

She said the main problem is that the investigations typically focus on decisions by low-ranking soldiers while ignoring the broader roles of top commanders or political and legal officials behind these practices. "The policy itself is never investigated," she said.

The Haaretz daily last week accused the army of hiding the actions it had taken in the aftermath of the shelling. □

Thai police fire rubber bullets, tear gas at virus protest



Riot police fire rubber bullets at anti-government protesters during a protest in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai police clashed for the second time in four days on Tuesday with protesters angry

over the government's handling of a coronavirus surge and a lack of progress in political reform.

Lines of police, backed by trucks spraying jets from water cannons, fired tear gas and rubber bullets at scores of demonstrators in Bangkok. Protesters threw rocks and fireworks and set fire to a traffic police booth, sending flames and smoke billowing into the sky.

The clashes continued into the evening in the same area — Din Daeng — where similar scenes played out last Saturday.

Tuesday's protest began as a "car mob," with demonstrators driving to different points in the capital to get around restrictions on public gatherings and minimize the potential for the spread of the coronavirus. Some

later broke away, leading to the confrontation with police.

The protesters blame the government for its perceived bungling of the coronavirus pandemic in which Thailand has struggled to suppress a dramatic spike in cases, partly because of the low rate of vaccinations among the population.

But the protests are also part of a wider push for sweeping political change that includes the resignation of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a new constitution and — most contentious of all — fundamental reform of the powerful but opaque monarchy.

The protest came on the anniversary of a rally at a university campus last year at which young campaigners revealed a 10-point royal reform agenda. The unprecedented challenge to the monarchy raised the political temperature in Thailand and led to months of rallies and clashes with police and pro-monarchists.

The rallies fell away due to legal action by the authorities, in-fighting among protest groups and the coronavirus resurgence, but began again recently as organizers capitalized on growing public discontent over the state of the country. □



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Military display rolls into Brazil capital before tense vote

DÉBORA ÁLVARES and
MAURICIO SAVARESE

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's military staged an unusual convoy of troops and armored vehicles through the capital on Tuesday — an event announced only a day before and that coincided with a scheduled vote in Congress on one of President Jair Bolsonaro's key proposals.

Scores of vehicles and hundreds of soldiers paraded past the presidential palace as Bolsonaro looked on, then continued past the congressional building and Defense Ministry.

The navy issued a statement saying the convoy had been planned long before the congressional vote. But it was announced only on Monday and critics said it looked like an attempt to intimidate opponents of a president who has often praised the country's past military dictatorship.

Military parades in the capital are usually limited to independence day events. Tuesday's procession was described as a ceremonial invitation for Bolsonaro to attend annual navy exercises that are held in a town outside the capital. The army and air force also are participating for the first time. Congress' lower house earlier had scheduled a Tuesday vote on constitutional reform that Bolsonaro has crusaded for: requiring printed receipts from some electronic ballot boxes that the president alleges are prone to fraud.

The parade upset some lawmakers. Omar Aziz, the president of a Senate probe into the government's COVID-19 pandemic response, said the parade was "a clear attempt to intimidate lawmakers and opponents. He (Bolsonaro)



A tank drives past Congress as part of a convoy after it passed by Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

naro) imagines he is showing strength, but he is showing a president weakened by investigations."

Critics allege that Bolsonaro, who trails rivals in early opinion polls, is trying to sow doubt among his passionate supporters about the 2022 election results, setting the stage for potential conflicts similar to those spawned by former U.S. President Donald Trump's allegations of fraud in the United States.

Bolsonaro's son Eduardo, a lawmaker, on Monday reinforced the family's close association with Trump by posting on social media what appeared to be a recent photo of himself standing alongside the former U.S. leader and saying he (Eduardo) is "on the side of men with unblemished reputations and the moral authority to walk down the street, head held high."

Tuesday's military procession shows Bolsonaro is either a poor judge of the political climate or is know-

ingly straining against democratic norms, said Kai Kenkel, a specialist on Brazil's military at Rio de Janeiro's Pontifical Catholic University.

"We still need to know for sure whether there is a connection between Bolsonaro's agenda and the motivations of the navy to do this, because the navy has been much more careful not to make political statements," Kenkel told The Associated Press.

Electoral authorities have repeatedly denied any problems with the voting system and Bolsonaro has failed to present proof despite a Supreme Court order to substantiate his allegations.

The president has repeatedly insulted Luis Roberto Barroso, a Supreme Court justice and the electoral court's president, accusing him of working to benefit former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has been leading in the polls.

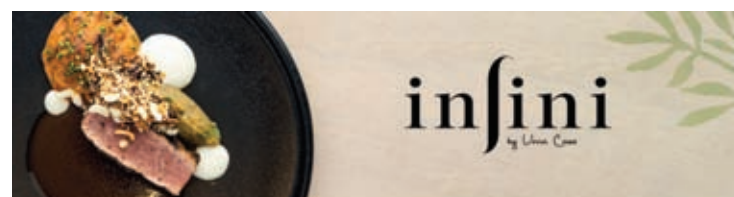
Tuesday's measure is a watered-down version of an initial proposal to adopt printouts at all of the nation's voting ballot boxes — a bill rejected last week by a congressional committee.

Electoral authorities and even many of Bolsonaro's political allies oppose the plan, saying it attacks a nonexistent problem and would create opportunity for vote buying.

The call for a vote appeared to be a bid by lower house Speaker Arthur Lira, a Bolsonaro ally, to settle the dispute for good and ease tensions.

On Monday, Lira called the military exercise taking place the same day as the vote a "tragic coincidence." □

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The 7-8 course gastronomic journey will start with sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.45PM. Around 7.00PM guests will be guided for a memorable dinner on the second floor of the other popular restaurant Asi Es Mi Peru. The dining concept reflects extraordinary, elegant and exquisite dishes from the Caribbean, Peruvian fusion and international cuisine created by the owners, Chef David Lizano and his team. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

The interior of the restaurant is if you were in an elegant establishment in Lima, the capital city of Peru. You feel elevated in the top of the building where dinner takes place in an intimate setting. The typical, colorful Peruvian fabrics dress the ceiling while the large windows dignify the room. There are only 16 seats available creating

an intimacy underlined by the owner's personal attention. "This is an amazing experience," says Robert J. Giordanella from New York. "The food is truly divine," shares a local guest. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

It is all about consistency

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday.

Peruvian touch

In the last ten years, Peru has been recognized as one of the world's best culinary destinations, and for seven consecutive years, the South



American country has won the award for the Best Culinary destination at the Worlds Travel Awards. Biodiversity combined multiculturalism are the reasons why Peru is so rich in gastronomy. You can travel through the last 500 years, touch a mix of cultures whenever you taste authentic Peruvian cuisine. The Kitchen Table brings this epicurean delicacies to Aruba paired perfectly with the best wines and they will make you understand why Peru is at the height of today's gastronomy.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website www.thekitchentableinaruba.com or call them at +297-280 7117. ☐



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What are you doing to reduce your use of products harmful to the environment?



ORANJESTAD - It is already one year ago of the introduction of the single-use plastic ban in Aruba. This law (Landsverordening verbod voor het milieu schadelijke producten - AB 2019no.67) went into effect after the parliament's approval in November 2019. This law addresses single-use plastics as well as oxybenzone-containing products like sunblocks and sunscreens.

Why is this an important law?

Plastic is found everywhere in the environment. It led to the global urge to reduce the use of plastics and ban single-use plastic products.

Plastic is a man-made material that does not disintegrate completely. It breaks into smaller pieces and remains in the environment, water, and also our food supply. Plastic does not only harm our nature and ecosystem. Fish eat these plastic fragments and humans eat the fish that includes the microplastics consumed by the fish. Implementation of the ban on the import of single-use plastics reduces the number of articles used one time and disposed of with the mentioned consequences for our nature and environment. The community and businesses are now using biodegradable products as a replacement for the traditional single-use plastics products.

What else can we do?

In addition to what is already being done, we should seek other options to help protect the environment. It may include declining products that are disposed of immediately and that can

not be reused.

These include:

- Say no to plastic straws and instead get metal straws;
- Bring your mug when purchasing coffee, and decline cardboard cups;
- If ordering take-outs decline plastic cutlery like plastic spoons, forks, and knives;
- Stop purchasing bottled water, instead invest in a reusable water bottle and fill this with tap water;
- Buy meal containers instead of using plastic or foam boxes, paper bags, or aluminum paper;
- Limit the purchase of sodas or drinks in plastic bottles or cans. Besides being good to the environment, this is healthy as well.

These are just some easy-to-follow tips that can have a positive impact on our nature and environment. □

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New prices for petroleum products August 11, 2021

ORANJESTAD – The Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Culture announces the adjusted prices for petroleum products starting August 11, 2021:

Gasoline unleaded-premium (+ 5,0 cent)	: 235,7 cent p/ltr.
Gasoil LS (+ 0,6 cent)	: 189,3 cent p/ltr.
Kerosene (+ 2,0 cent)	: 167,1 cent p/ltr.

BBO (turnover tax)/BAZV (Health tax)/BAVP is included in the prices.



Today's Happening



A selection of where to go while in Aruba

Thursday 12

Play more. Earn More. Enjoy More.

- Feeling lucky today? Try your luck at any of the 17 table games and a spectacular selection of over 300 spinning reels, video reels, and more at Aruba's most luxurious casino. Extraordinary moments await at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba.
- From 10 AM – 2 AM
- The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook: The casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba



Monday 16

California Lighthouse Experience

- Climb to the top of the California Lighthouse to see the best views of the island!
- From 9 AM till 5 PM
- Hudishibana 2, Westpunt
- Facebook Aruba Walking Tours



Friday 13

Chef Ruben Dario Hernandez- Your Personal Chef

- Sit down, relax and let Chef Ruben do the cooking. Chef Ruben has a passion for food and you will feel all the love in every dish he prepares. Breakfast, lunch or dinner, your wish is his command. For any occasion, wedding, anniversary, birthday, family or corporate gathering or just a home dinner chef Ruben is at your service.
- Available upon request
- For reservations call +297 566-4882
- Facebook: ChefRubendh



Tuesday 17

Hands of Gold Massage & Beauty on wheels

- After a very busy week all you need now is to pamper yourself with a relaxing massage or a skin care & body treatment at the comfort of your own room. Mary of Hands of Gold Massage is ready to give you that much needed treatment you deserve. Discover the secret of relaxation.
- Available daily from 9 AM- 7 PM
- For reservations call/Whatsapp Mary at +297-733-5034
- Instagram page: handsofgoldmassage&beauty

Saturday 14

Saturday Box Special at Bits & Cheeses by Deli297

- Enjoy a tasteful experience in a cozy and peaceful atmosphere. Bits & Cheeses offers a great variety of the best specialty Cheeses, Charcuterie, Butter & Wines. On Saturday's ask for the 'Box for 2' with 3 types of cheese & charcuterie with additives such as fruits, nuts and crackers. Can't pick up? They can deliver for a small fee.
- Available Saturday 5 PM-10 PM
- Pre order via whatsapp at (+297)5665264
- Located at Wilhelminastraat 63, downtown Oranjestad, (across El Gaucho restaurant)
- Facebook: Bits&Cheeses by Deli297



Sunday 15

Blissful brunch at Holiday Inn

- Sundays are for brunch and mimosas. Jump-start your day and let's do brunch. Relax, dive in and look around to make your selection at the extensive salad station, soup station, Asian station, carving



station, Aruban station, fruit station and bread station. All your breakfast and lunch favorites are here.

- From 11 AM to 2 PM
- Corals Restaurant at Holiday Inn Beach Resort Aruba
- For reservations call +297 586 3600
- Facebook: Holiday Inn Beach Resort Aruba



Wednesday 18

It's Winesday at Rooftop Sunset Bistro at Radisson Blu

- Enjoy panoramic ocean views while enjoying the fresh breeze and a glass of wine. Gather up the squad and find out why Sunset Bistro is the next hotspot for a bite, a drink or more.
- Starts at 12 PM, every Wednesday
- Radisson Blu is located at J.E. Irausquin Blvd 97, Palm Beach
- Facebook: Radisson Blu Aruba

Millennial Money: Ready for results? Find a mentor

By **KELSEY SHEEHY** of Nerd-Wallet

As your financial and professional lives become more complex, going it alone will only get you so far.

We all need advice, encouragement and a sounding board from time to time. Leaning on family and friends can help, but it can be difficult for loved ones to give you objective advice.

That's why you need a mentor. Or mentors.

You can have a career mentor. A money mentor. A life mentor. A spiritual mentor. A relationship mentor. A business mentor. Basically, any area of your life in which you need guidance or accountability, there's a mentor for that.

These relationships don't appear out of thin air. You need to seek out a mentor and put in the work to see results.

FINDING A MENTOR

Approaching someone and asking "Will you be my mentor?" feels a little awkward. But mentorship doesn't need to be that formal.

"I think the most valuable mentorships are the ones that arrive more organically," says Alison Green, creator of Ask a Manager, a work advice website.

Find someone you connect with, whether at work, in your social circle or in your



In this Sept. 19, 2020 file photo, a couple stands on a jetty as the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean in Bal Harbour. As your financial and professional lives become more complex, going it alone will only get you so far.

spiritual community, and start having deeper conversations. Ask for their perspective and use them as a sounding board.

That person may be two decades your senior, or they may be close to your age. In some cases, a mentor closer in age can better relate to your experiences at the workplace, in relationships and in life, Green says. It's still fresh for them. There are situations where a structured, formal mentorship is the way to go. If you're trying to start a business, for example, you need someone who sees

your vision and has the expertise to help you execute it.

That person may not already exist in your orbit. But you can find them through organizations like Score, a national volunteer organization that offers free business mentorship.

Whether you want to excel as a manager, save for retirement or become more involved with your house of worship, defining your goal can help narrow your mentor search, says Bridget Weston, CEO of Score.

"Try to understand your goals and what you want

out of a mentor relationship," Weston says. "Then you can approach them and say, 'This is what I'm looking for. Does this work for you?'"

MAKING IT WORK

A mentorship is a relationship, and even the easiest relationships require time, energy and focus. You also need to be open and vulnerable.

DON'T HOLD BACK: Confessing your fears and doubts won't happen on day one, meeting one. But as the mentorship grows, try to open up.

"You have to gel with

your mentor in order to make the most of that relationship," Weston says. "If you're holding back or not being 100% authentic, you're not going to get the most out of it."

If you don't feel comfortable doing so after a few sessions, consider finding a different mentor, says Jennifer Jones, founder of Cosmopolitan Plated, a culinary company in Arlington, Virginia, that offers group cooking classes and team-building events.

"It's like dating someone. You need three dates to figure out who they are," says Jones, who has a life coach and a business mentor. "If after that third meeting you realize it isn't working, kindly tell them. They will understand."

DO THE WORK: This isn't a college class where you can skim the assignment five minutes beforehand and wing it during the class discussion. To get the most out of your mentorship, take notes during meetings, prepare questions in advance and, most importantly, work on the things you say you will.

"Here's the catch: If you're not working on them, they don't mean anything to you," Jones says. "If they don't mean anything to you, either you're in the wrong mentor/mentee relationship or you are not ready." □

Robinhood to buy shareholder-communications company Say

NEW YORK (AP) — Robinhood, the trading app that's brought millions of new investors to the stock market, is buying a company that helps people communicate with the businesses whose shares they buy.

Robinhood Markets said Tuesday that it agreed to buy Say Technologies for about \$140 million in cash. Say helps publicly traded companies hear what questions their investors want answered, and it helps investors vote at

companies' annual meetings on everything from whether the CEO is overpaid to who should sit on the board of directors.

"We share a common goal of eliminating the barriers that keep people from participating in our financial system," Robinhood Chief Product Officer Aparna Chennapragada said in a blog post.

Say's Q&A platform allows investors to ask questions of companies, with investors voting on which questions they most want answered.

After the earnings release for AMC Theatres on Monday, for example, executives took questions first from their investors through the Say platform. Only after them did the executives take questions from Wall Street analysts. The first question was about whether AMC would pay a dividend again, one that got 63,500 votes from investors. CEO Adam Aron told them it cannot pay a dividend until about a year from now, at the earliest. Shares of Robinhood



An electronic screen at Nasdaq displays Robinhood in New York's Times Square following the company's IPO, Thursday, July 29, 2021.

Associated Press

flipped from a small loss to a gain of 1.5% in the first few minutes of trading on Tuesday. They've swung

sharply since they began trading in late July at \$38, bouncing between \$33.25 and \$85. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
37 Concluding
1 Enjoy the
 taste of
6 Luggage
10 Kagan
 sign
 of the
 Supreme
 Court

11 Size site
12 Snowy
 wader
13 Contest
 setting
14 Pills, in
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15 Music's
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16 Stretch of
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2 Libya
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3 Green
4 Some bills
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6 Rural
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7 Assists
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8 Italian
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9 Informal
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11 Fail
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15 Question
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17 Navy
 bigwigs
20 Rep.'s org.
21 Mountain
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24 Kenya
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29 Flutes'
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30 Cartoon
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31 Fad
35 Power unit
36 Tedious
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38 Golf goal

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AXYDLBAAXR
 IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

V O I Z K F I B F W Q Q B V B E N O P

S O B S Q O ' K Q E L E F O Y

S O P U O S F E B I K F B Y O D E I O Z K .

— J E P M E I E W K W F E P

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE TWO LASTING BEQUESTS WE CAN GIVE OUR CHILDREN: ONE IS ROOTS, THE OTHER IS WINGS.
 — HODDING CARTER



In this file photo dated Monday, July 19, 2021, a woman looks at cars and homes damaged after torrential rain caused flooding in Liege, Belgium.

Associated Press

'Code red': UN scientists warn of worsening global warming

By SETH BORENSTEIN

Earth is getting so hot that temperatures in about a decade will probably blow past a level of warming that world leaders have sought to prevent, according to a report released Monday that the United Nations called a "code red for humanity."

"It's just guaranteed that it's going to get worse," said report co-author Linda Mearns, a senior climate scientist at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research. "Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide."

But scientists also eased back a bit on the likelihood of the absolute worst climate catastrophes. The authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which calls climate change clearly human-caused and "unequivocal" and "an established fact," makes more precise and warmer forecasts for the 21st century than it did last time it was issued in 2013.

Each of five scenarios for the future, based on how much carbon emissions are cut, passes the more stringent of two thresholds set in the 2015 Paris climate agreement. World leaders agreed then to try to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahr-

enheit) above levels in the late 19th century because problems mount quickly after that. The world has already warmed nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since then.

Under each scenario, the report said, the world will cross the 1.5-degree-Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions. Warming has ramped up in recent years, data shows.

"Our report shows that we need to be prepared for going into that level of warming in the coming decades. But we can avoid further levels of warming by acting on greenhouse gas emissions," said report co-chair Valerie Masson-Delmotte, a climate scientist at France's Laboratory of Climate and Environment Sciences at the University of Paris-Saclay.

In three scenarios, the world will also likely exceed 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times — the less stringent Paris goal — with far worse heat waves, droughts and flood-inducing downpours unless there are deep emissions cuts, the report said.

"This report tells us that recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid and intensifying, un-

precedented in thousands of years," said IPCC Vice Chair Ko Barrett, senior climate adviser for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. With crucial international climate negotiations coming up in Scotland in November, world leaders said the report is causing them to try harder to cut carbon pollution. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken called it "a stark reminder." The 3,000-plus-page report from 234 scientists said warming is already accelerating sea level rise and worsening extremes such as heat waves, droughts, floods and storms. Tropical cyclones are getting stronger and wetter, while Arctic sea ice is dwindling in the summer and permafrost is thawing. All of these trends will get worse, the report said.

For example, the kind of heat wave that used to happen only once every 50 years now happens once a decade, and if the world warms another degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), it will happen twice every seven years, the report said.

As the planet warms, places will get hit more not just by extreme weather but by multiple climate disasters at once, the report said. □

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Review: Aretha Franklin bio 'Respect' maybe too respectful

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

The tag line for the latest biopic about an American icon reads: "Find out what it means." Good luck with that.

After more than two hours of the new messy Aretha Franklin biopic "Respect," it's not clear what it means, wasting a lot of superb screen talent in the slapdash process.

This time it's Jennifer Hudson portraying the Queen of Soul — a few months after Cynthia Erivo played Franklin in a National Geographic TV series — and you won't be able to leave the theater without a lot of respect — yes, R-E-S-P-E-C-T — for Hudson's abilities.

But a meandering, unfocused look at the first three decades of Franklin's life will also leave you saying a little prayer for the filmmakers. After all, if you come for the queen, you best not miss. This is a miss.

Director Liesl Tommy, using a screenplay by Tracey Scott Wilson, offers a series of chronological vignettes to try to explain what fed Franklin, a preacher's daughter from Detroit who would light up the world with her voice.

"Music will save your life," is the Hallmark-like slogan used in the film — uttered



This image released by MGM shows Jennifer Hudson as Aretha Franklin in a scene from "Respect." Associated Press

by a soulful Tituss Burgess as the Rev. James Cleveland. But that's not hefty enough to explain how a woman who endured rape, domestic violence, racism, misogyny, mental health challenges and addiction could go on to win 18 Grammys. Music will save your life? That may work for Nickelodeon. You need more here.

The script by Tracey Scott Wilson ("Fosse/Verdon") is a collection of scenes that don't add up to much, never really building and inter-

rupted — by necessity, of course — with overly long music sequences. This film needed someone to sharpen and clarify. It needed what Franklin was, an ideal interpreter.

Even Tommy herself seems to get a little bored by the end when she starts fussing with black-and-white film and old lenses, recreating TV interviews and even mixing in real news footage from the '60s. She even pops up in her own movie — as a fan seeking reassurance from Franklin — like a

fangirl Alfred Hitchcock.

It's telling that many of the smaller roles pop more than the main event. Mary J. Blige, as a tempestuous, table-tossing Dinah Washington, gives the film an electric kick and Audra McDonald as Franklin's mother is precious and understated, every second of their screen time leaving you begging for more.

At 6, Franklin endured the separation of her mother — never explicitly said in the film because her dad was sleeping around — and

then her mom's death at 10. The film's first half hour dwells on these twin calamities, featuring Skye Dakota Turner as a terrific young Aretha and Forest Whitaker as her father, a complex role that mixes warmth and anger but never quite illuminates.

Franklin, who died in 2018, was raped and impregnated as a pre-teen, hit by her father and then hit again by her first husband (a fabulous, equal parts smoldering and vicious, Marlon Wayans.) The queen was both a civil rights icon — standing with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr — and a diva-ish drunk who lashed out at friends. How much her abuse led to her addiction is only suggested.

Hudson isn't afraid to get ugly at rock bottom, though maybe not as harrowing as Andra Day did as Lady Day in "The United States vs. Billie Holiday." "Respect" doesn't dwell in the darkest depths like that biopic of another troubled superstar singer.

This film, unsurprisingly, is strongest whenever the music takes over, especially when Hudson opens her mouth and musical sparks fly or when we're shown Franklin feeling for her own sound, which we are reminded didn't happen for several albums. □

Female filmmakers denounce Spanish cinema prize for Depp



In this Thursday, July 23, 2020 file photo, U.S. actor Johnny Depp gestures to fans and the media as he arrives at the High Court in London.

Associated Press

By **JENNIFER O'MAHONY**
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's leading group of female

filmmakers on Tuesday condemned the San Sebastian film festival's decision to award Johnny

Depp its highest honor, saying it gave the international event a bad name after a British judge ruled last year that allegations of domestic violence against the actor were "substantially correct".

Cristina Andreu, the President of Spain's Association of Female Filmmakers and Audiovisual Media, said she was "very surprised" by the decision, announced Monday, to award Depp the Donostia Award at the festival's 69th edition next month. The award is the event's top prize and aims to honor lifetime achievement.

"This speaks very badly of the festival and its leader-

ship, and transmits a terrible message to the public: 'It doesn't matter if you are an abuser as long as you are a good actor,'" Andreu told The Associated Press. The association, which has close links to the San Sebastian festival, was "studying next steps," she added. The San Sebastian International Film Festival, held in northern Spain, takes place Sept. 17-25 this year. Depp is expected to receive the award in person on Sept. 22, in what will be his third appearance at the event.

An email request for comment from Depp's publicist in Los Angeles went unanswered outside office

hours.

Last year, Depp lost a libel case against a British newspaper that accused him of domestic violence, with a judge ruling the allegations were "substantially correct." In March, a British court refused Depp permission to appeal the ruling that he assaulted his former wife, Amber Heard, saying his attempt to overturn the decision had "no real prospect of success." Depp also is suing Heard for \$50 million in Virginia over a Washington Post op-ed essay that she wrote about domestic violence. The trial in that case was recently delayed until April 2022. □

Anthony joins his friend LeBron with title the only goal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Carmelo Anthony realized the time was finally right to join forces with his friend LeBron James.

Whether James and the veteran-led Los Angeles Lakers can help Anthony win his first NBA championship remains to be seen.

"Most people will say we should have gotten together years ago, early in our career, but we were on two different paths. It just felt like right now was the best time," Anthony said.

He and James have known each other since high school and were part of the star-studded 2003 draft class. James went first overall to the Cleveland Cavaliers out of high school, while Anthony was the third pick by the Denver Nuggets after leading Syracuse to its first NCAA title.

"Bron came to me and said the time is now and that we have to make it happen," Anthony said. "I took my time with it and weighed my options."

James won a pair of championships in Miami with Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade, who went fourth and fifth to the Toronto Raptors and Heat, respectively, in 2003.



In this May 22, 2021, file photo, Portland Trail Blazers forward Carmelo Anthony (00) points to a teammate after a basket against the Denver Nuggets in the second half of Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Denver. Anthony agreed to a one-year deal to join the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

He added two more titles with Cleveland in 2016 and LA last year.

Anthony's teams, meanwhile, have gone 3-13 in playoff series, and the closest he got to a title was a trip to the Western Conference finals with Denver in 2009.

With James, Anthony, Russell Westbrook and An-

thony Davis headlining the Lakers, anything less than a championship would disappoint.

"I'm coming in with a championship in my mind. This is the one thing that I'm missing," the 37-year-old Anthony said. "I want to experience what it is like going through the ups and downs of a championship season."

All four players were part of the U.S. gold medal squad at the 2012 London Games. Anthony wants to make sure their camaraderie is consistent even when times get tough.

"I'm more excited about the journey of this season. We are going to win games. Let's be quite frank: We have to win games,"

Anthony said. "The basketball part will take care of itself. It's how we all come together and support one another. When it's always sunny, it's cool, but when it starts raining, then what happens? That's where the expertise and experience come into play."

Anthony — the 10th leading scorer in NBA history — joins his seventh team as he enters his 19th season. He averaged 13.4 points and made 40.9% of his 3-pointers coming off the bench for Portland last season, revitalizing his career by proving he can contribute to a solid team as a reserve.

He's likely to have a similar role with the Lakers.

Anthony's 3-point shooting should be valuable on a team that has struggled from the perimeter for the past two seasons and added Westbrook, a point guard with a balky outside shot.

The recent additions — which also include Dwight Howard, Wayne Ellington, Kendrick Nunn and Malik Monk — have the Lakers with the second-lowest odds to win the NBA title, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. □

Spence drops out of Pacquiao fight with eye injury; Ugás in

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Errol Spence Jr. has dropped out of his pay-per-view fight with Manny Pacquiao on Aug. 21 because of a retinal tear in his left eye.

WBA welterweight champion Yordenis Ugás will step in to face Pacquiao at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas on the same date, the promoters announced Tuesday.

Spence (27-0, 21 KOs) holds the WBC and IBF welterweight titles, but he has fought just once since September 2019 due to a car crash and the coronavirus pandemic. According to his promoters, Spence didn't learn he had a torn retina until a prefight medical examination by the Nevada State Athletic Commission on Monday.

Spence will have surgery at home in Texas on Wednesday to repair the tear, but he will miss out on his high-profile showdown with Pacquiao (62-7-2, 39 KOs), the former eight-division champion returning to boxing after a two-year absence.

"I was excited about the fight and the event," Spence said. "There was no way I could fight with my eye in that condition. I'd like to apologize to everyone. You know I'll be back soon. We've come back from worse."

Ugás (26-4, 12 KOs) was scheduled to make his first career defense of his WBA title on the undercard of Pacquiao's meeting with Spence. Pacquiao beat Keith Thurman to win the same WBA title belt in his most recent bout in 2019. The 35-year-old Ugás was

elevated to welterweight super champion in the WBA's byzantine championship system last January after Pacquiao was abruptly stripped of the belt for inactivity. The Filipino congressman quickly agreed to shift his focus to Ugás after Spence's injury was discovered, perhaps partly because of the way he lost his WBA championship.

"The proper way and the only way to win a world title is inside the ring," Pacquiao said.

Ugás was scheduled to fight Fabian Maidana on the undercard of Pacquiao-Spence, but the Cuban Olympic bronze medal winner instead will get the biggest showcase of his up-and-down professional career. Ugás has won three straight fights, and he



Manny Pacquiao, left, and Errol Spence Jr., pose for a photo at a news conference at the Fox Studios lot in Los Angeles ahead of their upcoming boxing match, taking place in Las Vegas on Aug. 21, in Los Angeles Sunday, July 11, 2021.

Associated Press

claimed the first version of his WBA title with a split-decision victory over Abel Ramos in his most recent bout last September.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for Pacquiao, but I am coming to win this fight," Ugás said in

a statement. "Everyone knows my story about how I came to America to follow my dreams of becoming a world champion, and now it's time to stamp my legacy with a victory as one of the best Cuban fighters to ever put on a pair of gloves." □

Win on Sunday, sell on Monday still a goal for automakers

By JENNA FRYER AP
Auto Racing Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Rick Hendrick erased any doubt that marketing in motorsports is still effective when his automotive sales group bought the sponsorship rights through 2023 for NASCAR title contender Kyle Larson.

With few companies willing to back Larson upon his return from a nearly year-long suspension for using a racial slur, Hendrick put the website for his dealerships on the hood of Larson's car. Larson started winning races, which company officials say drove traffic to HendrickCars.com that netted \$1.8 million in leads and over \$5 million in television exposure.

"We're having the best year we've ever had," said Hendrick, owner of the largest privately held dealership in the country. "The market is blazing."

When motorsports began to gain mainstream traction in the 1980s, the motto for auto dealers was always "Win on Sunday, sell on Monday." But the economic downturn of 2008 nearly devastated the automotive market and NASCAR's soaring popularity started to level out. The marketing slogan was suddenly watered down to something closer to like, "Win on Sunday, hope a customer comes in on Monday."

Even so, manufacturers have not moved away from motorsports as a top sales platform. It's never been more evident than this year as spending has resumed after the pandemic crushed 2020 sales. Motorsports remains a critical marketing tool for companies to show how racing technology transfers from the track to the streets.

General Motors launched a special edition Corvette



General Motors Director of Marketing for Chevrolet cars and crossovers Tony Johnson addresses the media during a press conference for the 2022 Corvette Stingray IMSA GTLM Championship Edition vehicle, foreground, in Detroit, in this Wednesday, June 9, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

during a race weekend in the shadows of its Detroit headquarters. Lexus, Ferrari and Acura did the same for their new performance vehicles at IMSA sports car events. At a NASCAR race in Nashville, Ford used its fully electric Mach-E to pace the field and used its high-performance GT model to thrill VIPs for a few laps around the track.

The Mercedes-AMG GT Black Series was unveiled in June at the Concours Club in Miami. Although the sticker price is an eye-popping \$326,000, the car ranks in the top group of street-legal sports cars. Its crossover appeal was emphasized when it debuted alongside its sibling Mercedes-AMG GT3 racing car that went 1-2 in class in this year's Rolex 24 At Daytona endurance race.

"We know from our customers no matter what age they are, even if they're in the digital world of racing, which is very, very good, that racing is a proof-point

of engineering capability, validation of the car itself, and of safety in many cases," said Mark Reuss, president of General Motors. "The two-way technical things that we do in all of our race programs eventually show up in our production cars."

"The customer cares about that and motorsports is extremely exciting to watch and to participate in, so it is a natural marketing space," he said.

IHS Markit automotive analyst Stephanie Brinley said automakers get multiple benefits from their racing programs, from torture-testing new technology to a mostly unmeasurable impact on brand perception. People like to see competition and cheer for their brands, she said, and that translates to loyalty when it comes time to buy a new vehicle. That applies not only to racing fans who love the competition, but also to people who don't follow the sport.

"It gives owners a reason to cheer on their brand. It helps build an emotional connection," Brinley said. "That's really elusive, but it's also pretty key toward keeping and maintaining brand loyalty."

Automakers can use the race track to push new technology in ways they can't reproduce on their own test tracks, Brinley said. While there might not be a direct connection to consumer vehicles, the testing influences vehicles sold to the public.

"It's an opportunity to put the vehicles in challenging positions that aren't necessarily 100% under their control versus a regular test track situation," Brinley said. Ford Motor Co. points to the 1901 car "Sweepstakes" built by Henry Ford and Oliver Barthel as a race car to help restore Ford's reputation after his first failed attempt at owning an auto company. Sweepstakes won its first outing against an established driver and car, and the publicity helped Ford launch what is now the fourth-largest automobile company in the world.

For Henry Ford, the win on Sunday slogan had a more significant shift in that it meant he could start a new company on Monday.

"You saw what Henry Ford used Sweepstakes for — for marketing and notoriety and innovation and technical learning and he formed a successful business from it," said Mark Rushbrook, global director at Ford and head of Ford Performance Motorsports. "The core of that still holds through time from that point to where we are today for the same reasons and effectively."

There's still an important competitive element, as noted by David Salters, who last October was named president of Honda Performance Development.

HPD leads all Honda and Acura high-performance racing programs in North America, and Salter pointed to the IndyCar race at Mid-Ohio in July when Josef Newgarden in a Chevrolet edged Colton Herta in a Honda for the pole by 0.0031 seconds.

"You can find out where you are as a company, every qualifying session and at the end of every race," Salter said. "Between two human beings, two different powertrains, between people setting up chassis in different ways, and somehow one got it quicker in the blink of an eye."

"We begin to sweat when that happens. We go back and look at the data and try to analyze where the differences are, and then we bring that into our business."

Nearly every series awards a manufacturer championship at the end of each season — it's called a constructors title in Formula One — and it is a vital tool for automakers.

Edsel Ford II, great-grandson of Henry Ford, still believes that beating the competition is the best way to sell cars.

"I'm old school so I guess I still believe that if you win on Sunday, then you do the best you can to sell on Monday," Ford told AP. "Winning is so important to us and we do the best job we can in marketing our victories to our customers, to our fans, and we hope that they will come in on a Monday and buy a Ford." □



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